



Attorney Docket: 225/49847
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: FOCKE RASS ET AL.
Serial No.: 09/835,063 Group Art Unit: 3677
Filed: APRIL 16, 2001 Examiner: Gary Wayne Estremsky
Title: VEHICLE LOCK, IN PARTICULAR FOR A TAILGATE DOOR

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RECEIVED
AUG 12 2003
GROUP 3600

August 11, 2003

The following remarks are submitted in response to the final Office Action dated May 9, 2003.

Claims 1 through 7 are currently pending in this application. Applicants acknowledge the indication of the allowability of the subject matter of Claim 6, as set forth in paragraph 4 of the Office Action.

Claims 1-5 and 7 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Galantucci (European patent document EP 0 314 075 B1) in view of Roethel (U.S. Patent No. 2,629,621). However, for the reasons set forth in greater detail hereinafter, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-5 and 7 distinguish over the cited combination of references, whether considered